

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 9, 2004. Claims 1 and 37 to 40 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claim 36 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 1 and 37 have been amended, with Claim 1 having been amended (a) to contain the subject matter of Claim 36 and (b) to recite that --the imaging controller is configured such that it controls-- to address the Examiner's comments at page 4 (first paragraph) of the Office Action. Claim 40 has been newly-added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to attend to formal matters.

Claims 1 and 36 to 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,773 (Lee) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,160,906 (Daniels). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention, the imaging controller is configured such that it controls the radiation exposure starting time of the X-ray radiation unit so that the standard radiation exposure time will be y divided by a ratio of m:n, where y is the time interval between the minimum X-ray radiation time and the maximum X-ray radiation time, m and n are natural numbers, and the minimum X-ray radiation time and the maximum X-ray radiation time are determined according to the region of the body.

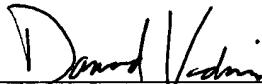
Neither Lee nor Daniels is seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

Applicant therefore concludes that the applied documents do not teach or suggest the claimed invention either singly or in the combination proposed by the Office Action, and it is respectfully requested that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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